

Remarks and Argument

Claims 1-16 are canceled. Claims 17-22 are pending in this application. Claims 17 and 21 are independent claims.

Support for Amendments

The application has been amended to include the claim for priority from the Japanese Patent application no. JP2003-046177 filed in the Japanese Patent Office on 02/24/2003 in the specification. This priority claim was documented in the filing transmittal letter on October 2, 2003 and was acknowledged in the filing receipt of July 1, 2004.

Summary

Therefore in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments, that claims 17-22 remain allowed and the patent allowed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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